

1. INTRODUCTION

Transportation plays a vital role in the development of an area. Business, industrial, and residential communities use it daily as a way of life. A thoroughfare plan takes the needs of these communities and provides a good, safe, and efficient highway system for the present and future.

This report describes the update of the Whiteville/Brunswick Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan. It will be used as guidance by the State of North Carolina and the urban area in the development a highway system sufficient for travel demands through the future year 2020. The City of Whiteville has been concerned with transportation for some time. The first thoroughfare plan study was developed in 1964. The second thoroughfare plan study was completed in 1980. This update includes the Town of Brunswick in the planning area whereas it did not in the two previous studies. The City of Whiteville is the county seat for Columbus County. The City of Whiteville and the Town of Brunswick are located in the southeast region of the State. Figure #1 shows this urban area in relation to the State.

The system of thoroughfares proposed follows the basic Principles of Thoroughfare Planning as described in Chapter 2 of the report. Many benefits are derived from thoroughfare planning. The primary objective is to enable major thoroughfares to be progressively developed that will adequately service future traffic demands. The location of thoroughfares depends on field investigation, aerial photos, existing and anticipated land uses, environmental concerns and topographic conditions. It also considers the travel concerns of the community and its public representatives.

Major benefits derived from thoroughfare planning are:

- (a) A minimum amount of land will be required for street and highway purposes.
- (b) Local citizens will be aware of the streets that will be developed as major thoroughfares and thus will have assurance that their residential street will not become a major traffic carrier.
- (c) Land developers can design their subdivisions so that their streets will function safely and efficiently.

It should be emphasized that the recommended plan is based on anticipated growth and current trends of the planing area. Prior to construction of specific projects, a more detailed study will be required to reconsider development trends, specific locations, design requirements, and environmental needs.